SUBJECT

Relations between Rumania and Albania.

DATE

December 2, 1931

CASE NUMBER

771.75

JACKET NO. 1

Please do not disarrange or remove papers from this jacket or deface jacket with office stamp or notations.

1—1235 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1928

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

new

SEE 875.4016-Rumanians/1 FOR #395

FROM Albania (Bernstein) DATED December 2, 1931

TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Efforts of Rumanian Minister to obtain special treatment for the Rumanian minority in Albania.

las

771.75/1

Tirana, Albania,

No. 998. December 2, 1931.

Confidential.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Rumanian Minister, Basil Stoika, has been making strenuous efforts to discover Kutzo-Vlachs among the Albanians in the neighborhood of Koreha. He has found a number of families who, in addition to the Albanian language speak a dialect somewhat similar to the Rumanian, and he endeavored to induce the Albanian Government to establish a Rumanian school and a Rumanian Church in the village of Voskopoje, for this Kutzo-Vlach "minority." Thus far the Albanian Government has not complied with the Rumanian Minister's request.

Several

Several months ago King Zog, Premier Pandeli Evangheli, Minister of the Court Libohova, and other Albanian notables were decorated by King Carol of Rumania, through the efforts of Basil Stoika, and in return for these honors, King Carol, rofessor Jorga and numerous Rumanian officials, including Basil Stoica, his secretary and a consular officer in Tirana, were decorated by King Zog.

Several Albanian youths were awarded scholarships by the Rumanian Government and were sent to a theological seminary in Rumania.

After the earthquake in Koroha last winter, Albanians in Rumania and a few members of the Rumanian Government raised a small fund for the relief of the earthquake sufferers. Stoika went to Koroha shortly afterward and gave himself a banquet at which he spoke in several languages about the Rumanian minority and its influence in Albania. According to impartial reports, he succeeded in making a laughing-stock of himself even among the simple mountaineers whom he claimed as Rumanians.

Recently Stoika asked Prime Minister Evangheli, who had lived for many years in Bucharest and who is friendly toward Rumania, to exert his influence with the King to grant his request for the establishment of a Rumanian school and church for the Kutzo-Vlachs near Koroha. Stoika enumerated to the Prime Minister all the friendly gestures recently made by Rumania toward Albania: the decorations given by King Carol, the food supplies sent for the earthquake sufferers, and the scholarships for the young Albanians studying for the priesthood. I have been informed by Mehmed

Konitza

Komitza that when Premier Evangheli presented this matter to King Zog, and recommended that the Rumanian Minister's request be granted, the King asked him: "Are you the Albanian or the Rumanian Premier?" And added emphatically that he would not permit the establishment of any such special schools or churches.

Sir Robert Hodgson, the British Minister, referring to this incident, remarked to me that Albania had troubles enough without this imaginary Rumanian minority being imposed upon it. The small number of Kutzo-Vlachs in Albania have been thoroughly assimilated for years and regard themselves as Albanians.

The Greek Minister Kollas also spoke sarcastically about Stoika's endeavors to establish Rumanian schools and churches in Albania and seemed to rejoice in Stoika's fiasco in this direction.

The Rumanian Minister, hurt and embittered, does not attempt to conceal his keen disappointment.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

HB/sjs
710

Copies to Bucharest and L.I.C.

A true copy of the signed original. K K

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 875.00/342 FOR #494

FROM Albania (Bay) DATED April 19, 1932

TO NAME 1—1127

REGARDING: Endeavors of the Rumanian Minister to Albania to obtain a Rumanian school for the Rumanian-speaking Albanians at Korcha. The Minister also was instrumental in providing them with Rumanian grain, flour and money during the earthquake catastrophe which befell these people last year.

las

771.75/2

771.75

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 753. Tirana, May 18, 1933.

Confidential.

SUBJECT: A Talk with the Rumanian Minister.

771.75/3

771.75
Note
740.0011 Peace Pact/64
775.64
775.51
775.7164
875.4016 Rumania
871.4016

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report a conversation with M. Buzdugan, the Rumanian Minister, who has recently returned from a visit to Bucharest.

M. Buzdugan said:

"Titulescu told me of his conversations with Premier Macdonald, Austen Chamberlain and others. He said he asked Macdonald why he did not call the Mussolini plan the Macdonald plan, for he, Macdonald, had expressed himself as favoring revision more than two years ago. Titulescu is always in the habit of making detailed notes immediately after every interview

and

and my brother, who is Titulescu's secretary, takes these notes down and has them typed. Titulescu showed Macdonald a transcript of their interview in 1930, on which occasion Macdonald said he was in favor of revision. Macdonald was quite embarrassed and tried to explain that he meant something different, that he was in favor of the revision of treaties but not of frontiers. Titulescu told Macdonald that his name should really be Macdollini. He also told Macdonald that the Little Entente and other powers were categorically opposed to revision, that they preferred war now rather than permit the rearmament of Germany and the revision of frontiers. He told him that these powers were willing to help Austria, Hungary, Germany and Bulgaria economically, financially and otherwise, but they will not allow them to rearm. Rearmament and revision of frontiers mean immediate war. Titulescu talked with Austen Chamberlain and others, and they all agreed with him.

"Italy fears the Anschluss. That makes our position easier. Hitler is working against peace, against the best interests of Germany. Hitler is abnormal. He would be declared insane by alienists. His acts during the past few months prove this beyond any doubt.

"The removal of General Pariani from Albania indicates the end of Italy's military policy here. Mussolini has finally convinced himself of Italy's fiasco in Albania. The Italian Minister, Koch, though not as intelligent as the former Minister, Marquis di Soragna, has succeeded where better men than he had failed. Baron Aloisi and

Koch

Koch are now Mussolini's trusted men. They have convinced themselves that they have wasted too much money on a wrong policy here. Koch had the courage to tell this to Mussolini, and Mussolini recalled his friend, General Pariani.

"King Zog has made a grave blunder in raising the question of the schools at this time. The Italians had an agreement with Albania regarding the schools. In the event the Albanians felt that they themselves could conduct these schools, they had the right to take them over. But they are not yet prepared to conduct the professional schools themselves. And they haven't the funds to support them. I know that everything had been arranged with regard to the Svea loan. The Italian Minister told me that the Svea was willing to accept an annual payment of a million and half gold francs. The Albanians offered to pay a million every year. They would have come to an understanding. Suddenly the school question upset everything. The Italians decided to make no concessions whatever. Koch insisted on it. And he was right.

"Some time ago I told King Zog that at this time the Little Entente could not help Albania, financially or otherwise. Italy had a strong claim on Albania. She had made such heavy investments here, while we have made no investments. If Albania appealed to the League of Nations, the League would tell Albania to pay Italy first. Therefore I suggested to the King that first the arrangement with the Svea must be concluded. Then we could

come

come to an understanding with Albania and help her. Italy could not object, for the Svea loan would be repaid in small annual instalments. But the school question upset the whole plan.

"The Albanians have also closed two of our minority schools. We shall raise the question in the League of Nations against the Albanian Government for having violated the clause regarding minority schools. I was in Bucharest when a telegram came informing us that our two schools were closed. Titulescu said that Rumania would not bother about these two schools, that we did not need them. But when I spoke to King Carol about the closing of the Rumanian schools, he became greatly irritated and angry. We have always been so friendly to Albania, and we have about two hundred thousand Albanians in Rumania. The Rumanians in Albania have never been a problem- they have been good Albanians."

375.7164
375.4016
371.4016

The Rumanian Minister is wrong in his theory that the school question had upset the Svea negotiations, that the Svea representatives had come prepared to make concessions to Albania and that the new school reform law leading to the closing of the Italian schools caused them to change their original plan. As a matter of fact, the amendment in the Constitution with regard to the schools was adopted and the Italian schools were closed before the arrival of the Svea representatives in Tirana.

It is quite probable that Italy was so determined to make no changes in the original Svea arrangement because the

the Rumanian Minister, M. Buzdugan, who talks so readily and often without any sense of responsibility, may have divulged to his friend, the Italian Minister, the scheme he had proposed to King Zog as to how Albania could rid herself of her obligations to Italy before entering into closer contact with the Little Entente. Buzdugan's colleagues of the Little Entente, and especially the French Minister, distrust him absolutely.

The weak point in Buzdugan's indignation against Albania with regard to the closing of the two minority schools in Albania, where the number of so-called Rumanians is insignificant, is that the two hundred thousand Albanians in Rumania have not a single minority school.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

Copies to Rome, Bucharest
and E.I.C.

4 copies received
1 copy in P.A.-E.E.C.

HB/SJS
710

Central File: Decimal File 771.75, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Romania And Albania, December 2, 1931 - May 18, 1933. December 2, 1931 - May 18, 1933. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111390539%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.